

From: Matthew Hornyak
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 12:39pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement: doesn't go far enough

Dear Sir or Madam,

The 1980s were a time of diversity and competition in the computer industry. There were many different computer platforms, each with its own unique strengths. Innovation was strikingly rapid.

Sadly, that time has passed because one company dominates the industry: Microsoft.

As a director of technology for a large regional consulting firm, I am forced to spend a considerable amount of money on systems which barely advance over last year's systems, just to stay compatible with my clients. Worse, this money could be used for our firm to develop innovative products.

Today, Microsoft is even getting worse; they are forcing large firms to move away from perpetual licensing of their software to yearly "subscription" licenses. They are doing this because people were not upgrading their Microsoft software because it was not innovative enough to merit spending the money to do so. Hence, Microsoft is now building a system in which they get yearly revenue from their customers, even if they do not sufficiently improve their products.

I urge the Department of Justice and the Court of Appeals to reconsider the settlement and to strongly consider the revised settlement offered by some of the states.

Only then will the software industry be innovative again.

Thank you,
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